

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - an image forming apparatus main body in which an ejection unit is provided at an upper portion thereof;
  - a recording medium storage section arranged along a substantially horizontal direction;
  - a transport path ~~that transports~~for transporting a recording medium supplied from the recording medium storage section along a substantially vertical direction, and ~~that ejects~~for ejecting the transported recording medium to the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body;
  - an image carrier;
  - an optical writing section ~~that forms~~for forming an electrostatic latent image on the image carrier; and
  - a developing section ~~that develops~~for developing the electrostatic latent image formed on the image carrier to produce a visible image, wherein
    - the developing section owns a developer storage space, which includes a first developer storage portion and a second developer storage portion, for storing therein developer; and
    - the developer being dropped from the first developer storage portion to the second developer storage portion; and
  - a latent image writing position of the image carrier written by the optical writing ~~apparatus~~section is located lower than at least a portion of the developer storage space along the vertical direction.

2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the optical writing apparatus is a scanning type laser exposing apparatus, and the scanning type laser exposing apparatus is arranged along the substantially horizontal direction.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the optical writing apparatus is arranged on the side of a front surface of the image forming apparatus main body within the image forming apparatus main body.
4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a control board is arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.
5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an interface board is arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.
6. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a developer storage vessel that stores thereinto the developer arranged between the ejection unit of the image forming apparatus main body and the optical writing apparatus.
7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the developer storage space owns a window portion which constitutes an optical scanning path defined from the optical writing section to the image carrier.
8. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
  
the ~~developer storage space owns a~~ first developer storage portion is arranged at an upper portion thereof, and ~~at the~~ second developer storage portion is arranged at a lower portion thereof, while the window portion is set to a boundary.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
at least a portion of the optical writing apparatus is arranged to be overlapped  
with respect to the developer storage space along a direction in parallel to an optical axis of  
incident light to the image carrier.

10.-24. (Canceled)